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26 May 1964



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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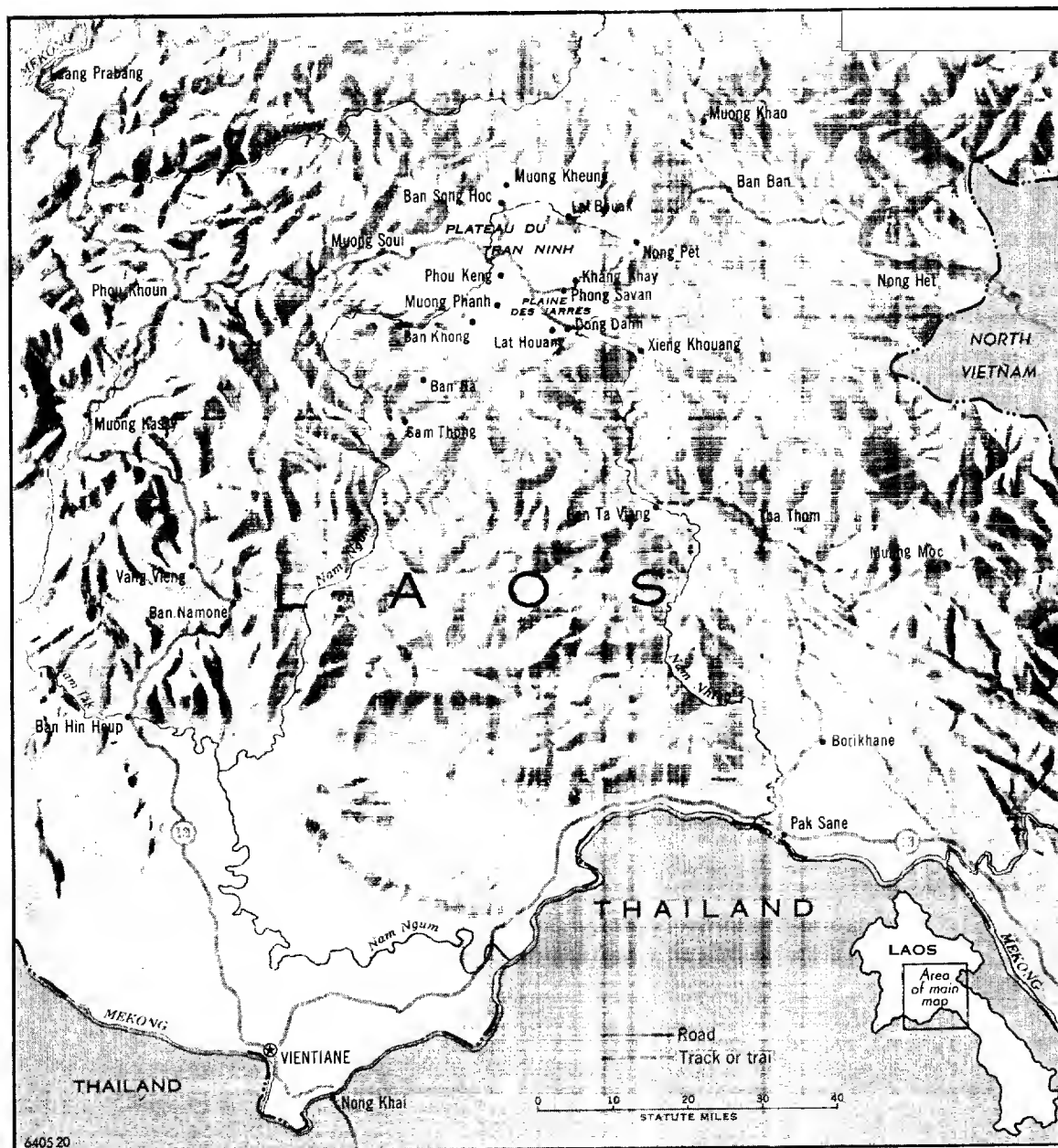
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26 May 1964

DAILY BRIEF

*Laos: [Neutralist forces have reoccupied positions in the Muong Kheung area.]

[Armored units, accompanied by elements of two neutralist infantry battalions, yesterday moved back into the Muong Kheung emplacements they had abandoned on 24 May.]

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In Vientiane, there are signs of mounting rightist dissatisfaction with Souvanna's coalition. Inpeng Suryadhay, a leading right-wing political figure, addressed the National Assembly yesterday and called for further "improvements" in the government and for the withdrawal from Laos of the "useless" International Control Commission. Expressing his opposition to another Geneva Conference, Inpeng called instead for military action against the Communists.

Other rightist leaders recently have criticized Souvanna for failing to provide decisive leadership.

Meanwhile, the Pathet Lao line appears to be hardening toward Souvanna. In a statement broadcast yesterday, Pathet Lao leader Souphannouvong asserted that Souvanna had "destroyed" the coalition government, and could no longer be considered premier of the coalition.

(continued)

[Souphannouvong's charge probably reflects an increasingly tough attitude on the part of Hanoi and Peiping. Neither capital has backed the recent French proposal for an international conference, nor have they followed Moscow's lead in publicly declaring continued support for Souvanna's coalition.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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Congo: The military situation in the Kivu region of the eastern Congo is rapidly deteriorating.

The Congo National Army (ANC) in Kivu lacks effective field leadership and some units have disintegrated in the face of attacks by rebel bands. The rebels, who until recently have been primitively armed, have captured considerable numbers of modern weapons from the ANC and vehicles from Europeans in the area.

The insurgents do not yet directly threaten the major city of Bukavu, but their successes may prompt dissidents within the city to join them. The city's garrison, which is partly locally recruited, might not offer much resistance.

Premier Adoula has expressed an intention to send reinforcements from Stanleyville and an elite paracommando battalion from Leopoldville to Kivu. US-provided reconnaissance aircraft for the ANC in Kivu are expected to arrive within a week. Yesterday the Adoula government requested the UN to send some of its few remaining troops in the Congo to Kivu. As all the UN troops are scheduled to leave the Congo by the first week in June, they will be of only limited help unless new arrangements are made.

The sad performance of the ANC in Kivu appears to be encouraging other Congolese dissidents. There are some signs that antigovernment outbreaks will soon occur elsewhere. The ANC has almost no more effective manpower upon which it can draw.

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DAILY BRIEF

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*South Korea: Interference by a group of paratroopers with court proceedings last week has triggered a new crisis within the Pak government.

On 21 May thirteen armed paratroopers invaded the court buildings in Seoul where cases involving student demonstrators were being handled and broke into the responsible judge's home. They demanded warrants for the arrest of all offending students.

[The incident appears to have been part of an attempt by government strong man Kim Chong-pil to maneuver President Pak Chong-hui into taking severe measures to halt the sporadic demonstrations that have plagued the administration since last March

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Although the paratrooper incident appears to have stirred wide public shock and disapproval, student demonstrations to protest the incident do not seem to have generated much popular support. Yesterday some 6,000 students demonstrated in Seoul and three other cities. [Continued student protests provide an element of antigovernment mass action which opposition party leaders are trying to exploit to bring down the Pak administration.]

The continued student unrest may be building support within the army for stronger government action. This again raises the question of armed forces involvement in politics less than a year after Pak re-established civilian government.

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